

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20.


Please amend claims 21-24, 26, 31, and 32 as set forth below.

Please add the following new claims 34-44 as set forth below.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A prosthesis evaluation assembly, comprising:
a tray configured to be supported on a proximal end of a resected tibia,
said tray having an opening defined therein; and


 an evaluation member having (i) a lower portion configured to be received within said opening, and (ii) an upper portion configured to support a trial insert thereon, said evaluation member preventing advancement of a tool through said opening of said tray when said lower portion of said evaluation member is received within said opening; and

a tool guide having a bore defined therein, said bore of said tool guide being aligned with said opening of said tray so that a tool may be advanced through said bore of said tool guide and said opening of said tray to cut a hole in said proximal end of said resected tibia when said evaluation member is spaced apart from said tray.

22. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 20 21, further comprising an alignment handle removably coupled to said tray.

23. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 20 21, wherein said evaluation member includes a number of spikes which are configured to be driven into said proximal end of said resected tibia to thereby affix said evaluation member to said resected tibia.

24. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 20 21, further comprising a number of fixation pins, wherein:

 said tray has a number of holes defined therein, and
said fixation pins respectively extend through said number of holes and into said proximal end of said resected tibia to thereby affix said tray to said resected tibia.

25. (original) The assembly of claim 21, wherein:
said opening of said tray possesses a first profile,
said lower portion of said evaluation member possesses a second profile,
and
said first profile is complimentary to said second profile, whereby rotational movement of said evaluation member relative to said tray is inhibited.

26. (currently amended) A prosthesis evaluation assembly, comprising:
a tray configured to be supported on a proximal end of a resected tibia,
said tray having an opening defined therein;

an evaluation member having (i) a tray contact portion configured to be received within said opening, and (ii) an insert contact portion, said evaluation member preventing advancement of a tool through said opening of said tray when said tray contact portion of said evaluation member is received within said opening;

A2 a tool guide having a bore defined therein, said bore of said tool guide being aligned with said opening of said tray so that a tool may be advanced through said bore of said tool guide and said opening of said tray to cut a hole in said proximal end of said resected tibia when said tray contact portion of said evaluation member is positioned away from said opening of said tray; and

a trial insert having a recess configured to receive said insert contact portion of said evaluation member.

27. (original) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said insert contact portion of said evaluation member and said recess of said trial insert are configured to enable movement of said trial insert relative to said evaluation member when said insert contact portion is located within said recess.

28. (original) The assembly of claim 27, wherein said insert contact portion of said evaluation member and said recess of said trial insert are configured to enable rotation of said trial insert relative to said evaluation member when said insert contact portion is located within said recess.

29. (original) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said insert contact portion of said evaluation member and said recess of said trial insert are configured to prevent movement of said trial insert relative to said evaluation member when said insert contact portion is located within said recess.

30. (original) The assembly of claim 26, further comprising an alignment handle removably coupled to said tray.

31. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said evaluation member includes a number of spikes which are configured to be driven into said proximal end of said resected tibia to thereby affix said evaluation member to said resected tibia.

32. (currently amended) The assembly of claim 26, further comprising a number of fixation pins, wherein:

said tray has a number of holes defined therein, and

said fixation pins respectively extend through said number of holes and into said proximal end of said resected tibia to thereby affix said tray to said resected tibia.

33. (original) The assembly of claim 26, wherein:

said opening of said tray possesses a first profile,

said tray contact portion of said evaluation member possesses a second profile, and

said first profile is complimentary to said second profile, whereby rotational movement of said evaluation member relative to said tray is inhibited.

34. (new) A surgical procedure, comprising the steps of:

- (a) resecting a proximal portion of a tibia so as to form a resected tibial surface;
- (b) placing a trial tray on said resected tibial surface, said trial tray having an opening defined therein;
- (c) positioning an evaluation member so that a lower end thereof is located within said opening of said trial tray;
- (d) positioning a trial insert so that a recess defined therein receives an upper portion of said evaluation member;
- (e) manipulating said tibia so as to determine stability and kinematics of said trial insert after step (d);
- (f) removing said lower end of said evaluation member from said opening of said trial tray after step (e);
- (g) positioning a tool guide so that a bore defined therein is aligned with said opening of said trial tray after step (f); and
- (h) advancing a tool through said bore of said drill guide and said opening of said trial tray to cut a hole in said tibia after step (g).


35. (new) The surgical procedure of claim 34, wherein:

said tool guide includes a drill guide, and

said tool includes a drill.

36. (new) The surgical procedure of claim 34, further comprising the step of securing said trial tray to said resected tibial surface after step (b) and before step (c).

37. (new) The surgical procedure of claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

 (i) if said stability and/or kinematics of said trial insert is determined insufficient in step (e), positioning an alternate trial insert so that an alternate recess defined therein receives said upper portion of said evaluation member; and

(j) manipulating said tibia so as to determine stability and kinematics of said alternate trial insert after step (i).

38. (new) The surgical procedure of claim 34, further comprising the step of affixing said evaluation member to said resected tibial surface after step (b).

39. (new) A prosthesis evaluation assembly, comprising:

a tray configured to be supported on a proximal end of a resected tibia, said tray having a rim structure that defines a tool opening in said tray;

an evaluation member having (i) a lower portion configured to mate with said rim structure of said tray, and (ii) an upper portion configured to support a trial insert thereon; and

a tool guide having a bore defined therein, said bore of said tool guide being aligned with said opening of said tray so that a tool may be advanced through said bore of said tool guide and said opening of said tray to cut a hole in said resected tibial surface when said lower portion of said evaluation member is positioned away from said rim structure of said tray.

40. (new) The assembly of claim 39, further comprising an alignment handle removably coupled to said tray.

41. (new) The assembly of claim 39, wherein said evaluation member includes a number of spikes which are configured to driven into said proximal end of said tibia to thereby affix said evaluation member to said resected tibia.

42. (new) The assembly of claim 39, further comprising a number of fixation pins, wherein:

said tray has a number of holes defined therein, and

said fixation pins respectively extend through said number of holes and into said proximal end of said tibia to thereby affix said tray to said resected tibia.

43. (new) The assembly of claim 39, wherein:

said rim structure of said tray that defines said tool opening possesses a first profile,

said lower portion of said evaluation member possesses a second profile,

and

said first profile is complimentary to said second profile.

44. (new) The assembly of claim 21, wherein:

said tool guide includes a drill guide, and

said tool includes a drill.